



HF Happenings



South African Radio League * Suid-Afrikaanse Radioliga
Member Society of the International Amateur Radio Union since 1925
www.sarl.org.za www.iaru.org www.iaru-r1.org

No 623

September 2014

South African Radio League 5 MHz activity weekend

The next South African Radio League 5 MHz activity weekend will be held on 20 and 21 September 2014. South African Radio League members are invited to take part in a 5 MHz activity weekend dedicated to propagation research - 5 250 and 5 260 kHz. The activity is focussed from 13:00 - 20:00 CAT on each day and comprises various activities during designated time slots. The activity is open to all South African Radio League members and to all radio amateurs living permanently outside the borders of South Africa. More details on the South African Radio League web at www.sarl.org.za.

Radio hams brave vast oceans to visit Tristan da Cunha



Dennis Wells, ZS1AU (right), radio amateur from Durbanville, will act as pilot for the DXpedition to Tristan da Cunha, with Nigel Cawthorne, G3TXF (middle) from England and Paul Johnson, ZS1S (left) from Green Point, before their departure on the SA Agulhas II last Thursday.

Your comments, suggestions and news items are welcome. If you have some DX news, contest news or something of interest, send it to zs4bs@netactive.co.za

While tearful families greeted their loved ones on the V & A Waterfront quay at Cape Town harbour before the departure of the SA Agulhas II last Thursday, two very excited, joyous radio hams were wished bon voyage by a small crowd of local amateur radio enthusiasts.

Nigel Cawthorne from England, a world-renowned figure in amateur radio, has taken part in many DXpeditions and Paul Johnson from Green Point, went on the vessel to Tristan da Cunha, a remote island in the South Atlantic Ocean between South America and Africa, for a DXpedition lasting three weeks.

Tristan da Cunha is the most remote inhabited archipelago in the world, according to Wikipedia and has a population of only 297 people. It has a north-south length of 1 127 km.

The two radio amateurs will be operating in turns every day for hours on end to give many radio amateurs around the world the chance to mark this rare island off in their log-books. They took along their radio equipment and aerials to contact the world from the island's main town of Edinburgh.

Radio amateurs aim to mark off as many destinations possible with which they have made radio contact. DXpeditions are undertaken to remote destinations to help radio hams all around the world to do so.

Local radio amateur, Dennis Wells, has been appointed as pilot to coordinate and han-

dle the e-mails from the entire world and also to keep in touch with them every day during the DXpedition all this from his "shack" with his radio equipment at his home in The Pad-docks in Durbanville.

Cawthorne and Johnson were dropped off by the SA Agulhas II on Tristan da Cunha on the way to Gough Island to replace the staff that has been there for 14 months.

They will join the ship again after a three week period to return to Cape Town around 9 October, depending on the weather.

- TygerBurger 2014-09-10

By Esmé Erasmus

Photo: Carina Roux



From 18 to 26 September 2014, the special call sign LZ14IARU will be active from the Grand Flamingo Hotel in Albena, Bulgaria. QSL via the bureau. The triennial General Conference of IARU Region 1 is being held in Albena from 21 to 27 September 2014

<http://iarur1con2014.bfra.org/>.

South African Radio League 80 metre QSO Party

The October leg of the South African Radio League 80 metre QSO Party will be held on Thursday evening 2 October from 17:00 to 20:00 UTC with activity between 3 603 and 3 650 kHz and 3 700 to 3 800 kHz. The exchange is the call signs of each station, a signal report and the operator's names. A QSO with a South African station counts 10 points and a QSO with a station outside South Africa counts 15 points. Submit your log by 11 October to zs5lp@vodamail.co.za

On-the-Air

September

5 - Casual Day; Secretary's Day

6 - Cellar2Cellar Trail Run and Wine Experience, Stellenbosch

6 and 7 - IARU Region 1 SSB Field Day; Staalwater Trail Run & MTB Challenge, Caledon

11 - Closing date October RAE

13 - Radio Technology in Action in Pretoria; Baa-Baa-Licious Braai Feast, Riebeeck Valley; Baviaanskloof Trail Run, Geelhoutbos

16 - World Ozone day

21 to 27 - IARU Region 1 General Conference, Albena, Bulgaria

24 - Heritage Day; National Braai Day

24 to 28 - Oceana Hout Bay Seafood Festival

25 - Rosh Hashanah

27 and 28 - CQ WW RTTY Contest

October

2 - SARL 80 m QSO Party

3 - Schools close

4 - Spring QRP Contest; RTA in Port Elizabeth; Yom Kippur

5 - RSGB 21/28 MHz Contest

6 - World Habitat Day

11 and 12 - AWA AM/SSB Contest

13 - Schools open

16 - RAE

17 to 19 - JOTA

18 - CQ Hou Koers

25 and 26 - CQ WW DX

Here is some of the 'something' on the Air I found while looking for information.

AOTA Airfields on the Air

BLOTA Boat Lifts on the Air

CASHOTA Castles and Stately Homes on the Air

CHOTA Churches and Chapels on the Air

COTA Castles on the Air

GIOTA Greek Islands on the Air

GOTA Guides on the Air

GOTA Get on the Air (ARRL Field Day category)

IOTA Islands on the Air

JOTA Jamboree on the Air

MOTA Mills on the Air

POTA Parks on the Air

ROTA Railways on the Air



Current Summits-on-the-Air (SOTA) activities are announced at www.sotawatch.org And more SOTA information can be found at www.sota.org.uk and www.zs4bfn.co.za/sota.asp

R66OTA - Route 66 on the Air
 SOTA Summits on the Air
 WLOTA World Lighthouse on the Air Award
 YOTA Youngsters on the Air
 There may be more!

African Islands

S7, Seychelles. Chris, HB9LCA, operates from the following islands as S79CLA
 6 to 14 September - Mahe
 15 to 21 September - Praslin
 22 to 27 September - La Digue

He will be active mostly on CW on 40 to 6 metres. Unfortunately, his IC-706 already failed and he now operates with his spare rig, a DX-70. QSL via HB9LCA (direct or via the Bureau).

African Islands Tour. Diego, F4HAU, will activate the following to African islands during the month of October. Activity will be holiday style on 40 - 10 meters SSB using a FT-857D with a HLA amp (300 W) into verticals and VDA antennas. QSL both operations via home call sign. His tentative schedule is as follows:

9 to 24 October - Reunion Island (AF-016); call sign FR/F4HAU

13 to 17 October - Side trip to Rodrigues Island (AF-017); call sign 3B9/F4HAU

FR, Reunion Island. Stephane, F5UOW, will once again be active as FR/F5UOW from Reunion Island (AF-016) between 29 October and 20 November. Activity will be mostly on CW with some SSB and RTTY. He will also be joined by Alain, F8FUA. QSL via F5UOW, by the Bureau or direct. Please NO IRCs!

ZD8, Ascension Island. Bob, G4DBW, will be back on the air as ZD8RH from Georgetown (AF-003, WLOTA 1491). He will be active from 22 to 30 September on CW. During the CQ WW DX RTTY Contest he plans to work single-band on either 15 or 10 m. QSL via G4DBW (direct or Bureau).

ZD8, Ascension Island (Update). Operators Olli, OH0XX, Jorma, OH2KI, Oliver, W6NV, will once again be active as ZD8R, ZD8X and ZD8W in October. Look for activity before, during and after the CQ WW DX SSB Contest (25 and 26 October). The operators will be testing their antennas. During the contest, operators will be Single-Op/Single-Band (??m) entries. QSL via the operator's home call sign.

African DX

TY, Benin (Change of Plans). Members of the Italian DXpedition Team (IDT) announced this past week that they have changed the dates on their November DXpedition to Benin. By the time you read this, they will be active as TY1AA until 26 September. The dates were changed because of work commitments of some Team members. Operators mentioned are Silvano, I2YSB, Vinicio, IK2CIO, Angelo, IK2CKR, Marcello, IK2DIA and Stefano, IK2HKT. Also listed are Mac, JA3USA and Gino, IK2RZP, but for only one week.

Activity will be on 160 - 6 meters using CW, SSB and RTTY. Their suggested frequencies are - CW - 1 826, 3 530, 7 025, 10 115, 14 030, 18 068, 21 030, 24 893 and 28 030 kHz; SSB - 3 780, 7 103, 14 270, 18 155, 21 310, 24 975 and 28 420 kHz; RTTY - 14 087 kHz and 6 m - 50 102 CW and 50 123 SSB.

QSL via I2YSB, direct or by the Bureau. An OQRS will be available for direct QSL and LoTW at

<http://win.i2ysb.com/logonline/>. For more details and updates, visit www.i2ysb.com/idt



A2, Botswana. Jim, N6TQ (A25TQ), reported on 8 September [edited]: "I'll be headed to Botswana with Frosty (K5BLU) next week. We will arrive and operate from the Lotsane Safa-



ri Lodge in the Tuli Preserve from approximately 11 to 18 September. I have the call A25TQ (Frosty has A25CF). We have some antenna repairs to complete first and then, propagation permitting, we will be on all bands 160 - 6 m as much as we can with a TS-590S and Expert 1k Amp. Please note this is my first DXpedition, my first opportunity as the hunted, so I ask the radio community to be gentle and be kind as I ease into this new role."

TR, Gabon. Alain, F6CTL, returns to Gabon and is operating again with his call TR8CA from 18 September onwards. QSL via F6CBC.

5T0, Mauritania - ITU Special Event. Jean, F3JL/5T0JL, will be using the special call sign 5T0ITU during the ITU events - like the ITU Plenipotentiary Conference in Busan, South Korea, between 20 October and 7 November and the ITU Telecom World 2014 in Doha, Qatar, between 7 and 10 December. He may also use it during the ITU week in May 2015. The license is valid until October 2015.

CN2, Morocco. Juan, EA8RM, Jorge, EA9LZ, Ash, KF5EYY, Rich, W7ZR, Jim, W7EJ and possibly others will be active as CN2R during the CQ WW DX SSB Contest (25 and 26 October) as a Multi-Single entry. Operators will be testing the new stations starting 7 October. QSL via W7EJ.

The 5 MHz Newsletter

The latest edition of The 5 MHz Newsletter, is now available for free download from <http://tinyurl.com/m9a9puy>

The Summer 2014 edition (No 11) features the latest 5 MHz News, a Midsummer's Day on 5 MHz and BeaconSpot looks at the new Swiss 5 MHz Beacon.

In addition, there is now an archive of Editions 1 - 10 at <http://tinyurl.com/p22gybh> plus the Worldwide Amateur 5 MHz Alloca-

tions Chart in new format (MS Excel) at <http://tinyurl.com/oofmemh>

Why You Need a Travel Mast

Our Travel Masts have been hugely popular. They make portable operating so much easier. At about 10 m long, they are big enough to lift your antennas but they pack small enough to fit in a suitcase. Check out the video here



<http://sotabeams.us6.list-man->

[age1.com/track/click?u=3a85afccc4843a7b778acbb68&id=ff444b2198&e=9e4871b275](http://sotabeams.us6.list-man-age1.com/track/click?u=3a85afccc4843a7b778acbb68&id=ff444b2198&e=9e4871b275)

Travel Masts are light at under 1,3 kg but strong due to their over-sized wall thickness and the number of overlapped sections. Naturally, they are easy to use! Great for verticals or horizontal antennas. Two could support a super beachside beam! This link shows how

<http://sotabeams.us6.list-man->

[age.com/track/click?u=3a85afccc4843a7b778acbb68&id=8e9717a830&e=9e4871b275](http://sotabeams.us6.list-man-age.com/track/click?u=3a85afccc4843a7b778acbb68&id=8e9717a830&e=9e4871b275)

I have lots in stock and they are on sale this weekend. Save over 10% this weekend. Travel Masts ship Worldwide.

73 Richard, G3CWI

What is happening on the bands?

A great way to catch those openings on the bands is to subscribe to the DXMAPS website. Once signed up you can opt for e-mail alerts for the bands of your choice.

Never miss an opening again!

<http://sotabeams.us6.list-man->

[age2.com/track/click?u=3a85afccc4843a7b778acbb68&id=1239a6b522&e=9e4871b275](http://sotabeams.us6.list-man-age2.com/track/click?u=3a85afccc4843a7b778acbb68&id=1239a6b522&e=9e4871b275)

Take some time to explore their site. It is highly recommended!



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Contest Calendar

This week's contests compiled by Bruce Horn, WA7BNM. The period covered is 15 to 22 September 2014

CWops Mini-CWT Test

13:00 - 14:00 UTC, 19:00 - 20:00 UTC 17 September and 03:00 - 04:00 UTC 18 September

Mode: CW

Bands: 160, 80, 40, 20, 15, 10 m

Classes: Single Op - QRP, low or high

Max power: HP: >100 watts; LP: 100 watts; QRP: 5 watts

Exchange: Member: Name and member no; non-Member: Name and state, province or country

Work stations: Once per band

QSO Points: 1 point per QSO

Multipliers: Each call once

Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total mults

Submit logs by: 04:00 UTC 20 September 2014

Post log summary at:

<http://www.hornucopia.com/3830score/>

Mail logs to: (none)

Find rules at: <http://www.cwops.org/cwt.html>

NAQCC Straight Key/Bug Sprint

00:30 - 02:30 UTC 18 September

Mode: CW

Bands: 80, 40, 20 m

Classes: (none)

Max power: 5 watts

Exchange: RST, state, province or country and NAQCC no or power

Work stations: Once per band

QSO Points: 1 point per QSO with non-member; 2 points per QSO with member

Multipliers: Each state, province or country once

Key Type Mult: 2 x if straight key, 1.5 x if bug, 1 x if other

Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total mults x key type mult

Submit logs by: 23:59 UTC 21 September 2014

Upload log at: <http://naqcc.info/sprintlog.html>

Mail logs to: John Shannon, K3WWP, 478 E. High St., Kittanning, PA 16201, USA

Find rules at:

<http://naqcc.info/sprint201409.html>

NCCC RTTY Sprint Ladder

01:45 - 02:15 UTC 19 September

Mode: RTTY

Bands: 160, 80, 40, 20, 15 m

Classes: Single Op

Max power: 100 watts

Exchange: (see rules)

Work stations: Once per band

QSO Points: NA station: 1 point per QSO; non-NA station: 1 point per QSO with an NA station

Multipliers: Each US state (including KL7 and KH6) once per band; Each VE province once per band; Each North American country (except W/VE) once per band

Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total mults

Submit logs by: 21 September 2014

E-mail logs to: (none)

Post log summary at:

<http://www.3830scores.com>

Mail logs to: (none)

Find rules at:

<http://www.ncccsprint.com/rules.html>

NCCC Sprint

02:30 - 03:00 UTC 19 September

Mode: (see rules)

Bands: (see rules)

Classes: (none)

Exchange: (see rules)

Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total mults

Submit logs by: 21 September 2014

E-mail logs to: (none)

Post log summary at:

<http://www.3830scores.com/>

Mail logs to: (none)

Find rules at:

<http://www.ncccsprint.com/rules.html>

AGB NEMIGA Contest

21:00 - 24:00 UTC 19 September

Mode: CW, SSB, Digital

Bands: 80 m Only



Classes: Single Op - CW, SSB or mixed; Single Op Mixed QRP; Multi-Op; Digital; One Hour; SWL

Exchange: AGB Member: RST, QSO no and member no; non-Member: RST and QSO no

Work stations: Once per mode per 15-minute period (see rules)

QSO Points: 1 point per QSO with same continent; 3 points per QSO with different continent; 5 points per QSO with AGB member

Multipliers: Each AGB member once; Each DXCC/WAE country once

Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total mults

Submit logs by: 19 October 2014

E-mail logs to: eu1eu@mail.ru

Mail logs to: Igor "Harry" Getmann, EU1EU, PO Box 143, Minsk 220005, Belarus

Find rules at:

http://www.ev5agb.com/contest/agb_nemiga.htm

Pirate QSO Party

01:30 - 03:30 UTC 20 September

Mode: SSB

Bands: 40, 20, 15 m

Classes: Single Op - red or black - QRP, low or high (see rules); Multi-Single - red or black (see rules)

Max power: HP: 1 500 watts; LP: 100 watts; QRP: 5 watts

Exchange: (see rules)

Work stations: Once per band

QSO Points: (see rules)

Multipliers: doubloons (see rules)

Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total mults

Submit logs by: 30 September 2014

E-mail logs to: w6rrr@arrl.net

Mail logs to: San Fraser, W6RRR, 702 California St., Santa Cruz, CA 95060, USA

Find rules at:

<http://pirateqsoparty.weebly.com/rules.html>

Scandinavian Activity Contest, CW

12:00 UTC 20 September to 12:00 UTC 21 September

Mode: CW

Bands: 80, 40, 20, 15, 10 m

Classes: Single Op Single Xmtr - QRP, low or high; Single Op Single Xmtr Assisted - QRP, low or high; Single Op Single Band; Single Op Low Band; Multi-Single; Multi-Multi

Max power: HP: >100 watts; LP: 100 watts; QRP: 5 watts

Exchange: RST and serial no

Work stations: Once per band

QSO Points: Scandinavian: 2 points per QSO with EU; Scandinavian: 3 points per QSO with non-EU; EU: 1 point per QSO with Scandinavian station; non-EU: 1 point per QSO with Scandinavian station on 20, 15, 10 m; non-EU: 3 points per QSO with Scandinavian station on 80, 40 m

Multipliers: Scandinavian: Each DXCC country once per band; non-Scandinavian: Each Scandinavian call area once per band

Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total mults

Submit logs by: 28 September 2014

Upload log at: <http://www.sactest.net/robot/>

Mail logs to: (none)

Find rules at:

<http://www.sactest.net/blog/rules/>

South Carolina QSO Party

14:00 UTC 20 September to 03:00 UTC 21 September

Mode: CW/Digital, Phone

Bands: 160, 80, 40, 20, 15, 10, 6 m

Classes: Single Op Fixed - CW, SSB or mixed - QRP, low or high; Multi-Single Fixed - CW, SSB or mixed - QRP, low or high; Multi-Multi Fixed - CW, SSB or mixed - QRP, low or high; Mobile-Single - CW, SSB or mixed - QRP, low or high; Mobile-Multi - CW, SSB or mixed - QRP, low or high

Max power: HP: >100 W; LP: 100 W; QRP: 5 W

Exchange: SC: RS(T) and County; non-SC: RS(T) and state, province or DX

Work stations: Once per band per mode per county

QSO Points: 1 point per phone QSO; 2 points per CW/Digital QSO

Multipliers: SC: Each US state (including DC) and VE province/territory once per mode; non-SC: Each SC county once per mode

Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total mults



Submit logs by: 20 October 2014

E-mail logs to: logs@scqso.com

Mail logs to: SCQSO Party, PO Box 595, Columbia, SC 29202-0595, USA

Find rules at: <http://scqso.com/rules/>

Feld Hell Sprint

16:00 - 18:00 UTC 20 September

Mode: Feld Hell

Bands: 160, 80, 40, 20, 15, 10, 6 m

Classes: (none)

Max power: Standard: 100 watts; QRP: 5 watts

Exchange: (see rules)

Work stations: Once per band

QSO Points: (see rules)

Bonus Points: (see rules)

Multipliers: (see rules)

Score Calculation: (see rules)

Submit logs by: 27 September 2014

Upload log at:

<https://sites.google.com/site/feldhellclub/>

Mail logs to: (none)

Find rules at:

<https://sites.google.com/site/feldhellclub/Home/contests/sprints/hell-on-wheels-sprint>

QRP Afield

16:00 - 22:00 UTC 20 September

Mode: All

Bands: 160, 80, 40, 20, 15, 10 m

Classes: (none)

Exchange: RS(T), state, province, country, IOTA or USi and power or NE QRP no

Work stations: Once per band per mode

QSO Points: 1 point per QSO if using >5W and permanent location; 2 points per QSO if using >5W and field/mobile location; 5 points per QSO if QRP and permanent location; 10 points per QSO if QRP and field/mobile location

Multipliers: Each state, province, country, IOTA, USi once per band

Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total mults

Submit logs by: 19 October 2014

E-mail logs to: k1cl@arrl.net

Mail logs to: Chuck Ludinsky, K1CL, 6 Pracing Rd., Chelmsford, MA 01824-1922, USA

Find rules at: <http://newenglandqrp.org/afield>

Washington State Salmon Run

16:00 UTC 20 September to 07:00 UTC 21 September and 16:00 - 24:00 UTC 21 September

Mode: CW, SSB, Digital

Bands: 160, 80, 40, 20, 15, 10, 6, 2 m

Classes: Single Op - CW, SSB, digital or mixed- QRP, low or high; Multi-Single

WA Club Single Transmitter; WA Club Two Transmitters; WA Mobile - CW, SSB, digital or mixed; WA Single Op Expedition - CW, SSB, digital or mixed; WA Multi-Op Single Xmtr Expedition; WA Multi-Op Two Xmtr Expedition; Unlimited (see rules)

Exchange: WA: RS(T) and County; non-WA: RS(T) and state, province or country

Work stations: Once per band per mode per county

QSO Points: 2 points per phone QSO; 3 points per CW or digital QSOs; Bonus: 500 points per QSO with W7DX once per mode (max of 1500 points)

Multipliers: WA: Each WA county, state, province, DXCC entity once; non-WA: Each WA county once

Score Calculation: Total score = (total QSO points x total mults) and bonus points

Submit logs by: 5 October 2014

E-mail logs to: salmonrun@wwdxc.org

Mail logs to: Western Washington DX Club, PO Box 395, Mercer Island, WA 98040, USA

Find rules at: <http://www.wwdxc.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/08/2014-Salmon-Run-Rules.pdf>

BARTG Sprint 75

17:00 - 21:00 UTC 21 September

Mode: 75 Baud RTTY

Bands: 80, 40, 20, 15, 10 m

Classes: Single Op Expert; Single Op All Band

Exchange: Serial no

Work stations: Once per band

QSO Points: 1 point per QSO

Multipliers: DXCC countries once regardless of band; JA, W, VE and VK areas once regardless of band

Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total mults x continents

Submit logs by: 21 October 2014

Upload log at:



<http://bartg.rsgbcc.org/cgi-bin/hfenter.pl>

Mail logs to: (none)

Find rules at:

<http://s3.spanglefish.com/s/7850/documents/contests/sprint75/rules/current/bartg%20sprint%2075%20rules.pdf>

Run for the Bacon QRP Contest

01:00 - 03:00 UTC 22 September

Mode: CW

Bands: 160, 80, 40, 20, 15, 10 m

Classes: Single Band; All Band

Max power: 5 watts

Exchange: RST, state, province or country and member no or power

Work stations: Once per band

QSO Points: 1 point per QSO with non-member; 3 points per QSO with member on same continent; 5 points per QSO with member on different continent

Multipliers: Each state, province or country once; Multiply mults by 2 if >50 members worked

Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total mults

Submit logs by: 28 September 2014

E-mail logs to: (none)

Upload log at:

<http://fpgrp.org/pigrun/autolog.php>

Mail logs to: (none)

Find rules at: <http://fpgrp.org/pigrun/>

Next week's contests

SKCC Sprint, 00:00 - 02:00 UTC 24 September

CWops Mini-CWT Test, 13:00 - 14:00 UTC, 19:00 - 20:00 UTC 24 September, 03:00 - 04:00 UTC 25 September

RSGB 80 m Club Sprint, CW, 19:00 - 20:00 UTC 25 September

NCCC RTTY Sprint Ladder, 01:45 - 02:15 UTC 26 September

NCCC Sprint, 02:30 - 03:00 UTC 26 September

CQ Worldwide DX RTTY Contest, 00:00 UTC 27 September to 24:00 UTC 28 September

Texas QSO Party, 14:00 UTC 27 September to 02:00 UTC 28 September 14:00 UTC-20:00 UTC 28 September

Peanut Power QRP Sprint, 20:00 - 22:00 UTC 28 September

HISTORY



History this Week

Week starting 15 September 2014

1683 - The Dutch scientist Antonie van Leeuwenhoek wrote to the Royal Society reporting his discovery of microscopic living animalcules (live bacteria)

1774 - Antoine Lavoisier observed that heating mercuric oxide produces metallic mercury

1783 - Jacques Etienne Montgolfier launched a duck, a sheep and a rooster aboard a hot-air balloon at Versailles in France

1830 - The Liverpool to Manchester line was ceremonially opened in England. It was built by George Stephenson

1830 - B&O locomotive Tom Thumb, the first locomotive built in America, lost in a 14 km race with a horse due to a boiler leak

1859 - Patent granted on the electric range

1893 - Frank Duryea drives first US made gas propelled vehicle (car)

1895 - First auto manufacturer opens - Duryea Motor Wagon Company

1957 - First underground nuclear explosion (Las Vegas Nevada)

Summits on the Air from the Free State

On Saturday 20 September from 06:00 to 15:00 UTC, Eddie, ZS6BNE, Rudi, ZS6DX, Andries, ZS6VL, Cliriska, ZU6BV, and Angelo, ZU6M, will be activating two summits in the Moolmanshoek area of South Africa's Eastern Free State.

The summits are First Pyramid (2 167 ml) and Second Pyramid (2 200 m). They will be active on HF using CW, phone and digital modes.

The team will be putting out spots on SOTAWatch as well as GMAWatch on Saturday.



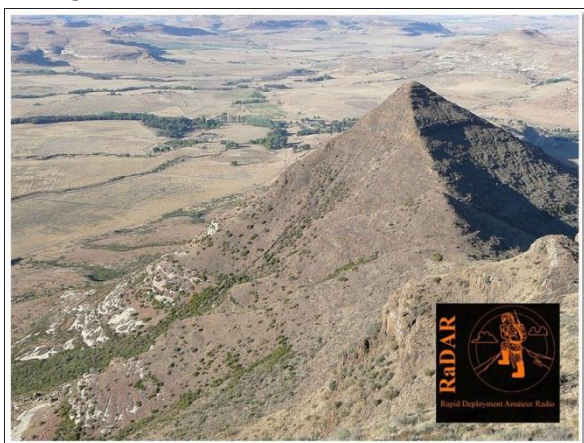
The German Mountain Award (GMA) reference numbers for the two summits are ZT/FS-001 - First Pyramid and ZT/FS-002 - Second Pyramid.

The summit information has been submitted to the SOTA Management Team and we are awaiting the SOTA numbers. ZS-SOTA hopes that they will be issued before the weekend.

You can be a chaser on Saturday or what about activating a summit in your area and working summit to summit. Good luck to the team in their endeavour!



The Great Pyramids - but not in Egypt, these are at Moolmanshoek in the Eastern Free State. The area between Rosendal and Ficksburg.

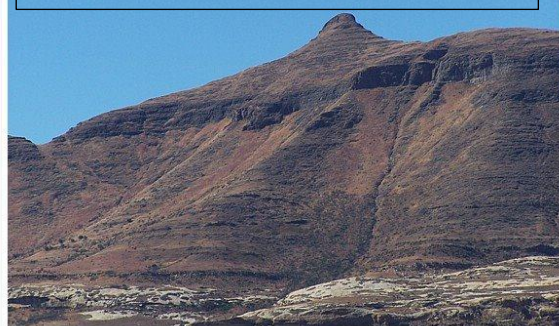


First Pyramid

Auntie Coreen Explains Contesting

How does ham radio contesting look from just outside the shack door? Let's listen in as a couple of VE9AA's family members, Auntie Coreen and her nephew, discuss our favourite hobby. Maybe this will help you ex-

And Sekonyella's Hat, a summit still to be climbed!!



plain a little of what you do, as well. Thanks to Mike for sharing this extended dialogue with the *Contest Update*! 73, Ward NØAX

Nephew: (Two little puppydog eyes look waaaaay up) Auntie Coreen, Can I ask you a question?

Aunt Coreen: Yes little nephew, what is it hon? Does Uncle Mike not like me anymore? (A tear in the little boy's eye)

That's silly, he loves you dear. (She smiles) How come Auntie, when I come over on weekends, he's always in his shop?

That's because he's contesting. (She says in a low voice)

Contesting? What's that?

It's a radio contest nephew.

You mean like when you are the 10th caller and you win a burger and fries from that DJ on 105.3 The Fox FM radio?

No, not that kind of contest.

What kind then?

Well, it's a HAM radio contest.

Ham? Like what we have at Easter with pine-apples?

No, Amateur Radio Ham, that kind.

Amateur radio. Hmmm. Is that why Uncle Mike has all those antennas on his red car and all those wires in the fir trees?

Yes hon, he's a ham radio guy, but mostly just on weekends.

He seems so normal during the week Auntie. Is he OK? Like why does he do these contests Auntie? Can he win prizes or sumfin'? (Bewildered look on the little boy's face)

Sometimes dear, sometimes. (kinda tips head; not knowing what to say)



What has he won?

Oh, a bunch of wallpaper and a few plaques I guess. He got rice from one contest in the Midwest and we enjoyed maple syrup from Nova Scotia this year. If we open the door and are very quiet we can peek in on him doing his work and have a look at his wall. (creeeeeeak ... shack door opens slowwwwwly .. (yelling) CQ CONTEST Victor Echo Nine Alpha Alpha, contest...)

Who is he talking to Auntie and where is this wallpaper?

Probably someone far away dear. His wallpaper is those certificates that come in the mail now and then. See them on the wall there next to our pictures? (yelling) You're 5-9 November Bravo...)

Who's November Bravo Auntie Coreen?

It's us.

Us?

Yes, November Bravo means New Brunswick.

Huh?

It's phonetics. Each letter has its own word and hams use it to express what they are spelling like you do in grade one. Spelling is always important.

I don't hear anyone talking to him.

That's because he has his headphones on.

Oh. Does he use them to hear far away people better?

Yes, and so the noise doesn't bother us also.

Noise?

(Uncle Mike takes off his headphones and a roar ensues...Delta Lima Italy Kilo One Papa Alpha Zulu Zulu Tango Mike Four crackle/squeal...)

WOW Auntie that IS loud. Please ask him to put his headphones back on.

We won't have to dear, he was just seeing if we wanted anything. (She motions to Mike that everything's ok and to go back to his contest work. Mike looks over the top of his spectacles and goes back to work, huffing and puffing, cheeks rosy as ever.)

I heard a lot of loud voices Auntie.

Yes dear. A lot of people want New Brunswick.

Is that November Bravo?

Yes dear.

Why do they want it?

I guess it's rare.

Rare like those red steaks he puts on the BBQ in the summer?

No dear. There aren't many contesting hams way up here in the snowy Arctic regions of NB. *Oh....??.* (Little nephew looks down, looking scared) *Do they want to take November Bravo away?*

No dear, they want to work your Uncle Mike.

Work him? Doesn't he already have a job making toys all year long?

Yes, but they want to make contact with him and put him in their log for points.

Auntie, I really don't know what you are talking about now. There are so many words that have other meanings. (head spinning)

They exchange numbers and letters and each person makes a note in their computer program that they talked to the other and at the end, a board adds up the points.

Board? Is that how they make the log?

No silly. I mean a group of trusted organizers add up everyone's points and determines who wins.

Who DOES win Auntie?

Many people, dear. People do it mostly for fun and there are many classes.

I have classes at my school, Jingle Bell Elementary! I have Math and Reading and even Spelling. I could write some notes and give them to Uncle Mike and help him out!!!

Well, he has to talk to you on the radio to make it count, but if you smile at Uncle Mike, I am sure he'll see you, even if he's yelling at someone.

Why is he yelling? Is he mad?

No, he's not mad. It's just that there are lots of people from all over the world on the radio all talking at once like when I took you Christmas shopping during that big sale at the mall last week. Remember that big crowd?

Do I ever! You lost me and I cried. I yelled and you yelled and we found each other.

Well, it's kinda like that nephew, but with points for getting back together.

Will Uncle Mike always do this? I never see him anymore on the weekends.

No dear, he's promised to retire at midnight on New Year's Eve.

Retire? Like Grampy did?



Is that why he drinks six cups of coffee even before coffee break in the mornings?

Yes, well, he needs the caffeine to keep up with the other runners. He's not as young as he used to be you know. With a big belly and a greying beard and that red shirt, he's showing his age during this festive season.

And does he know any of these other runner guys?

Some of them. He talks to people on the radio and gets letters and emails from all over the world dear. Many are his friends, but some are naughty and he's not friendly with them much because they have nasty signals and they're rude. Today on his lunch break I made him some cookies and milk and he told me that special friends from India and Guam called him and the excitement on his face was like you are on Christmas morning little one.

Where else has he talked to?

Well, all over the world really. USA, Canada, many places in Europe like the Netherlands we visited a couple years ago, remember that place?

Oh yes, I loved Holland! So many tulips, wind-mills, chocolate, wooden shoes, and cheese ... You're from there right? Is that why Sinter Klaas brought us chocolate for our shoes the other night?

Yes dear. The Dutch people were very nice to us. Maybe if Uncle Mike gets off the radio a bit we can save up, go back someday and see them again.

What other places has he talked to?

All kinds of places hon. I am sure Uncle Mike will tell us tomorrow where else his signal has landed last night. I hear him saying "Arigato" now, so I think he just talked to Japan. He likes to be friendly with everyone.

And they understood him Auntie!! He can speak Japanese. Cool.

We better shut the shop door; Uncle Mike can't hear the weak signals now as its getting dark. He knows a few words and is just being friendly to all the boys and girls on the radio.

How many more contests does he have left

this year?

Only a few. One of the last this year is the RAC Winter contest, which is his time to say Hello, Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays and thank all his radio friends for all the points they exchanged all year long. He enjoys the BIG contests and the QSO Parties too. After that is the big Stew.

Parties with Stew? Like Uncle Mike makes with the leftover turkey bones on Boxing Day?

No dear, the Stew Perry. It's a Top Band contest.

Top...uhh..band? Is that a holiday music contest Auntie?

No, it's a special band very low on the dial and in this one where they award points based on distance talked.

Like when I throw a snowball farther than little Elfy next door and I win?

Sort of.

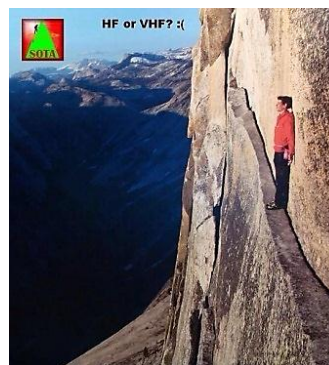
Uncle Mike really loves all this contesting stuff eh?

Yes dear, but it's been a hard year on him. So much to do at work and he misses spending weekend time with his family at home. He's spent all year building up these points in his workshop only to have them all go away on New Year's Eve. That's why he's said he's going to do less contests from now on and take some time off over the holidays to be with all of us like most other families are doing around this time of year.

He really loves us Auntie, huh? (sniffles)

Yes dear. I bet all hams love their families. (she gleams)

73 de Mike Coreen, VE9AA



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